

Community Vision

Overview

Members of the Community Response Team and other residents of Elgin collaborated during the planning process to formulate a vision of the community for the year 2010. They considered the unique aspects of Elgin, their hopes and wishes for the community, preferences for how the town would look in twenty years, how big it would be and who would live there. The Community Response Team created a comprehensive Vision Statement which describes all aspects of life in Elgin in 2010, including job and educational opportunities, physical infrastructure and appearance and general quality of life.

A Vision of Elgin in 2010

It may be hard to find a better place to live in Oregon in the year 2010 than Elgin. Located along the banks of the Grande Ronde River at the entrance to the Wallowa Valley, Elgin will be one of the highlights in northeastern Oregon.

This friendly, livable and financially secure community, with a desired population of about 2,500 will enter the 21st century under the guidance of strong leadership, supported by active residents who pursue their community's vision through a process of consensus. Driven by pride in their community and commitment to control their own destiny, the residents and leaders will work to create a thriving economic balance that ensures jobs for today's residents and opportunities for future residents.

The people will be the driving force for the new optimism. Elgin will be well planned, attractive and developed around a common theme. Streets will be paved, truck traffic will be routed around the community, and a well designed industrial park will house existing and new small businesses. Housing opportunities will be available for all who wish to live in the community. Community services, such as police protection, health and youth programs will be a major commitment of the residents.

Resident support for educational opportunities for their children will be represented by the best educational facilities the community can afford, by high-tech education tools linked with other communities and by community volunteer service program that enrich the lives for the children from Elgin. The community center, with its year-round pool and youth programs, will be an activity center for the entire town. A drug free environment for youth will be a community-wide goal.

The economy of Elgin in 2010 will be multi-faceted, balanced and integrated. Timber and agriculture will continue to be a significant part of the economy. Additional economic stability will come from such endeavors as developing small industries, tourism, cottage industries, and attracting new technology companies dedicated to developing new opportunities related to the health of the agriculture and timber industries.

One of Elgin's economic goals will be to create a strategic plan that capitalizes on the growing recreational interest in the area. Visitors coming to Elgin will be greeted by attractive landscaping, numerous parks and an information center. The visitor will be able to spend time relaxing on the new golf course, using the new boat launching facility on the river, traveling on the scenic railroad into the Wallowa Valley, using the hiking/biking trails and ski area. Tours will promote the cultural heritage of the valley. New overnight facilities will persuade visitors to spend extra time in the area.

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT FOR HUNAHA PARK

PREPARED FOR
THE CITY OF ELGIN, OREGON
September 13, 1994

KJC CONSULTING
P.O. BOX 1036
ELGIN, OR 97827

A. INTRODUCTION (p93)

The Hunaha Park Project has two components: 1) A day use and RV camping park on the Grande Ronde River in Elgin; and 2) Walking trails along the Grande Ronde River and Phillips Creek with interpretive and information signs. The site was a day use park from about 1910 until about 1962. Since that time, the site has been abandoned. The project was initially a community development concept but is now recognized as having economic development characteristics as well.

The project concept was first promoted by the Elgin Chamber of Commerce. In 1992, the Elgin 2010 Committee decided to include the project into their community strategic plan. At that time the City of Elgin was identified as the developer of the project. The project has received a high level of support from the Elgin Community as evidenced by the Elgin 2010 Committee rating and ranking of projects in February, 1993. 2010 ranked six projects out of a list of twenty-seven long term projects as having the highest potential impact on the community. Hunaha Park was ranked third in this list. Since that time, the first project have been completed and the second is currently in construction.